



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

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One Third of the Nation's Chemical Agent Now Safely Destroyed

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency Reinforces its Position as the World Leader in Programs to Eliminate Chemical Weapons

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. -- The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) today announced that it has safely destroyed 33.34 percent of the nation's stored chemical agent. CMA continues working toward fulfilling its mission to enhance national security while meeting the destruction provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) treaty signed by the United States in 1997.

Workers at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., have destroyed more than 70 percent of the mustard agent stockpile that has been stored for over 60 years at the installation. The facility remains on track to complete destruction of this stockpile this winter.

"The dedicated workers at all of our disposal facilities are making great strides to eliminate these weapons and make our nation safer in the process," said Michael A. Parker, CMA director. "We remain focused on our mission and will use our expertise, experience and resolve to continue this work until the last of this materiel is safely destroyed."

CMA protects and safely stores the United States' aging chemical weapons, while employing technologies to safely and effectively destroy the nation's chemical stockpile as well as recover, treat and ultimately eliminate other chemical warfare materiel. Thus far, the Army has destroyed more than 42 percent of the nation's chemical weapons munitions, and 10,503 tons of chemical agent, representing one third of the total stockpile.

All of the chemical weapons on Johnston Island in the Pacific were the first to be eliminated by the Army. Along with Aberdeen, chemical weapons are currently being destroyed in Tooele, Utah; Anniston, Ala.; Umatilla, Ore.

Operations to destroy chemical weapons are anticipated to begin within the next year in Pine Bluff, Ark., and Newport, Ind.

The U.S. Army Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Program (NSCMP), another arm of CMA, has also made substantial progress in destroying chemical materiel considered separate from the chemical stockpile. This materiel includes former production facilities and recovered chemical warfare materiel.

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For more information,
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NSCMP reached a key milestone in 2003 by destroying more than 80 percent of the nation's original chemical weapons production capabilities 16-months ahead of schedule. In November of this year, NSCMP completed a major phase in its ongoing demolition of a former production facility at Pine Bluff Arsenal, White Hall, Ark., one of the two still remaining (the other is at Newport Chemical Depot, in Vermillion, Ind.). Both will be demolished by the April 2007 deadline established under the CWC.

To learn more about the CMA's programs and activities, visit the agency's web site at <http://www.cma.army.mil>.

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The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency is responsible for safely storing and eliminating the United States' aging chemical weapons and agent stockpiles and for the safe elimination of recovered chemical materiel.



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